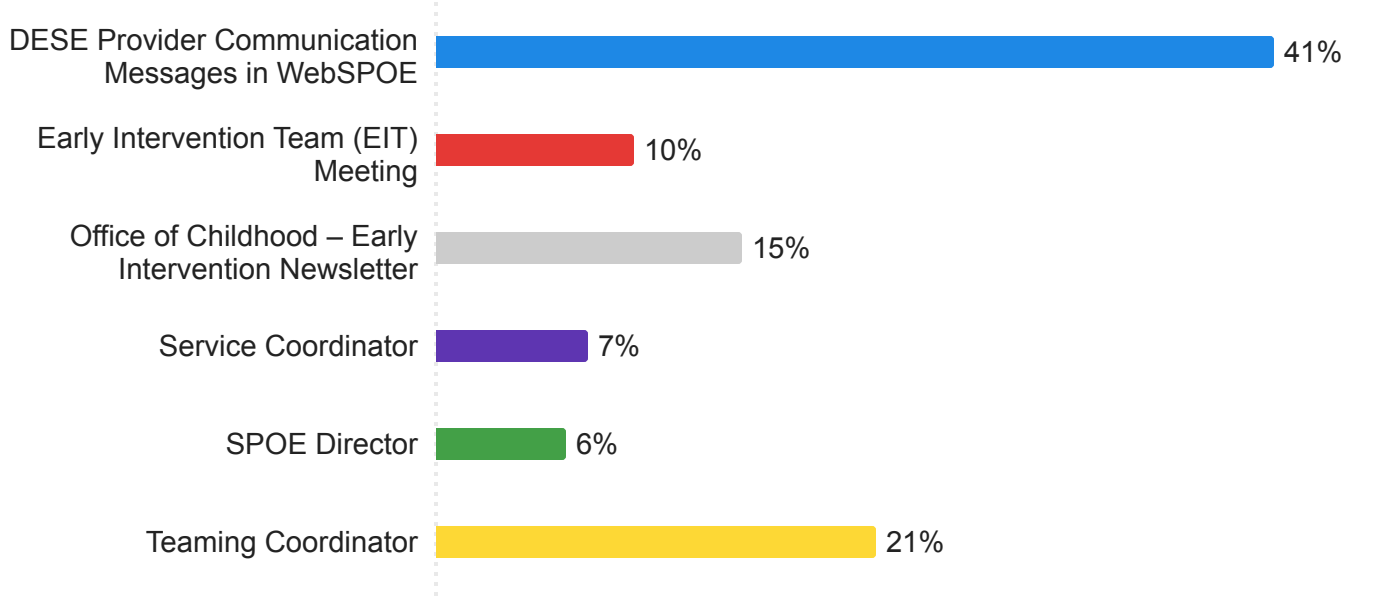
The FY2026 Annual Provider Survey opened on October 24, 2025 and closed on November 24, 2025. The survey was open to all provider types regardless of EIT status. All providers were asked to complete one survey per provider based upon primary region served.

Q1 - How did you hear about this survey?

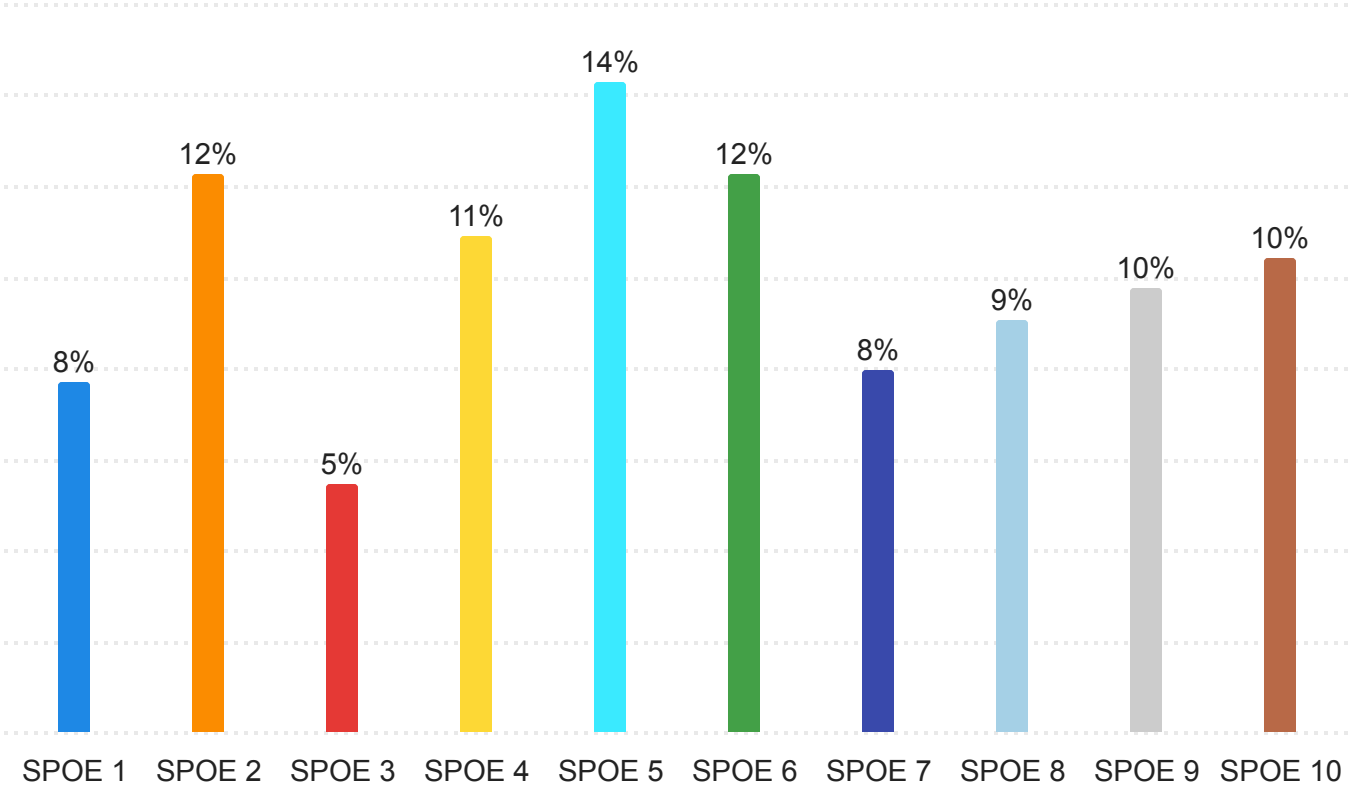
446 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
DESE Provider Communication Messages in WebSPOE	181
Early Intervention Team (EIT) Meeting	43
Office of Childhood – Early Intervention Newsletter	66
Service Coordinator	33
SPOE Director	28
Teaming Coordinator	95
Total	446

Q2 - Primary SPOE Region served.

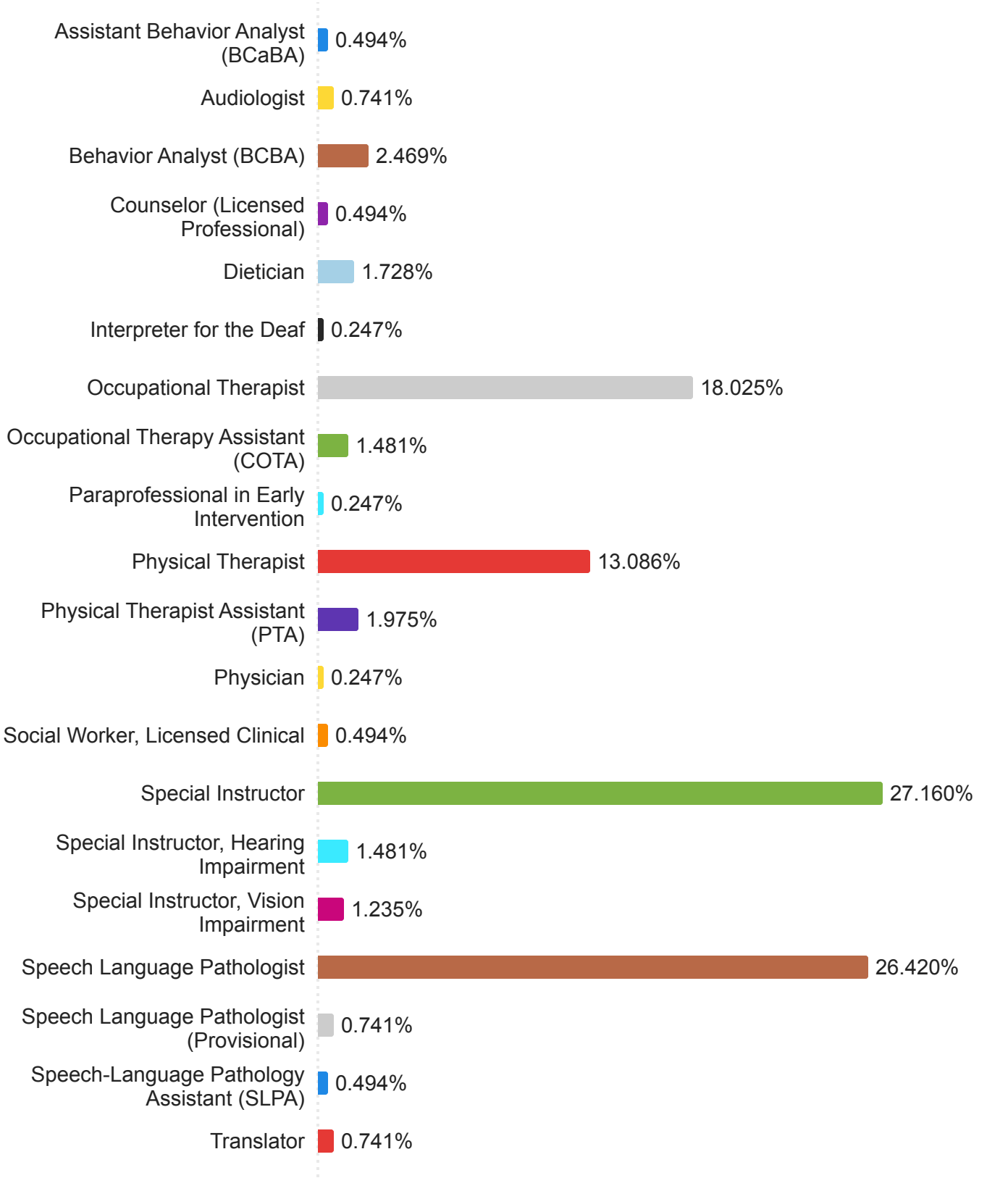
441 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
SPOE 1	34
SPOE 2	54
SPOE 3	24
SPOE 4	48
SPOE 5	63
SPOE 6	54
SPOE 7	35
SPOE 8	40
SPOE 9	43
SPOE 10	46
Total	441

Q3 - Please select your primary provider type or discipline.

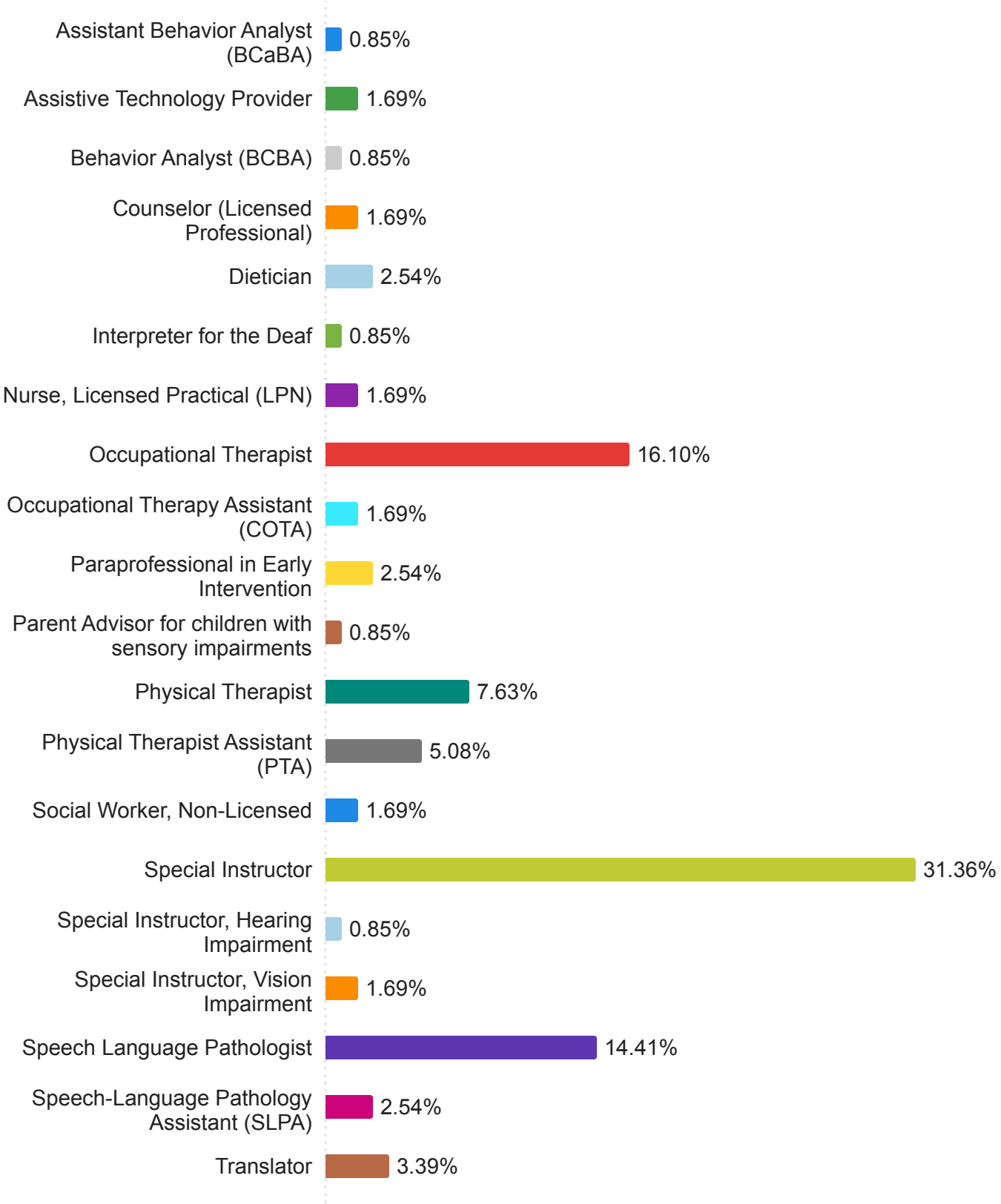
405 Responses


Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) 0.494%
Audiologist 0.741%
Behavior Analyst (BCBA) 2.469%
Counselor (Licensed Professional) 0.494%
Dietician 1.728%
Interpreter for the Deaf 0.247%
Occupational Therapist 18.025%
Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) 1.481%
Paraprofessional in Early Intervention 0.247%
Physical Therapist 13.086%
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) 1.975%
Physician 0.247%
Social Worker, Licensed Clinical 0.494%
Special Instructor 27.160%
Special Instructor, Hearing Impairment 1.481%
Special Instructor, Vision Impairment 1.235%
Speech Language Pathologist 26.420%
Speech Language Pathologist (Provisional) 0.741%
Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) 0.494%
Translator 0.741%

Answer Choices	Choice Count
Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)	2
Audiologist	3
Behavior Analyst (BCBA)	10
Counselor (Licensed Professional)	2
Dietician	7
Interpreter for the Deaf	1
Occupational Therapist	73
Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)	6
Paraprofessional in Early Intervention	1
Physical Therapist	53
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)	8
Physician	1
Social Worker, Licensed Clinical	2
Special Instructor	110
Special Instructor, Hearing Impairment	6
Special Instructor, Vision Impairment	5
Speech Language Pathologist	107
Speech Language Pathologist (Provisional)	3
Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)	2
Translator	3
Total	405

Q4 - Please select your secondary provider type or discipline.

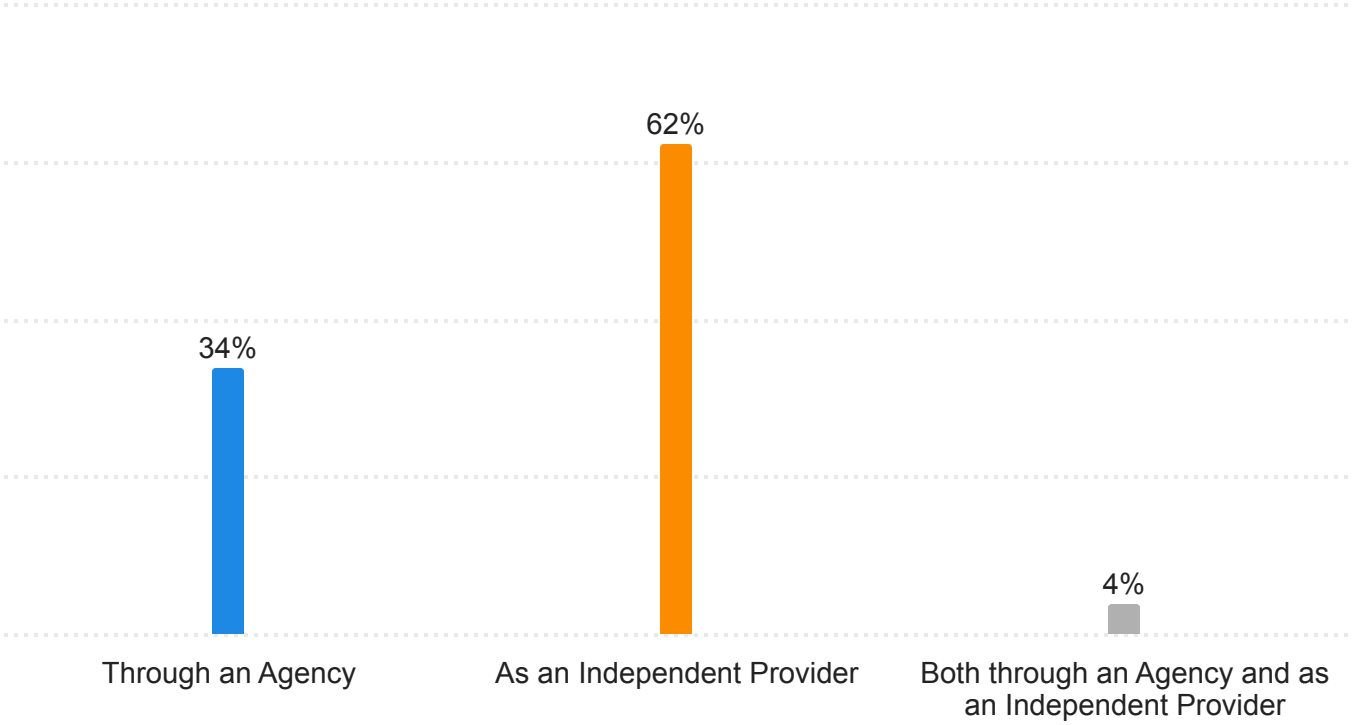
118 Responses



Answer Choice	Choice Count
Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)	1
Assistive Technology Provider	2
Behavior Analyst (BCBA)	1
Counselor (Licensed Professional)	2
Dietician	3
Interpreter for the Deaf	1
Nurse, Licensed Practical (LPN)	2
Occupational Therapist	19
Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)	2
Paraprofessional in Early Intervention	3
Parent Advisor for children with sensory impairments	1
Physical Therapist	9
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)	6
Social Worker, Non-Licensed	2
Special Instructor	37
Special Instructor, Hearing Impairment	1
Special Instructor, Vision Impairment	2
Speech Language Pathologist	17
Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)	3
Translator	4
Total	118

Q5 - I provide First Steps services:

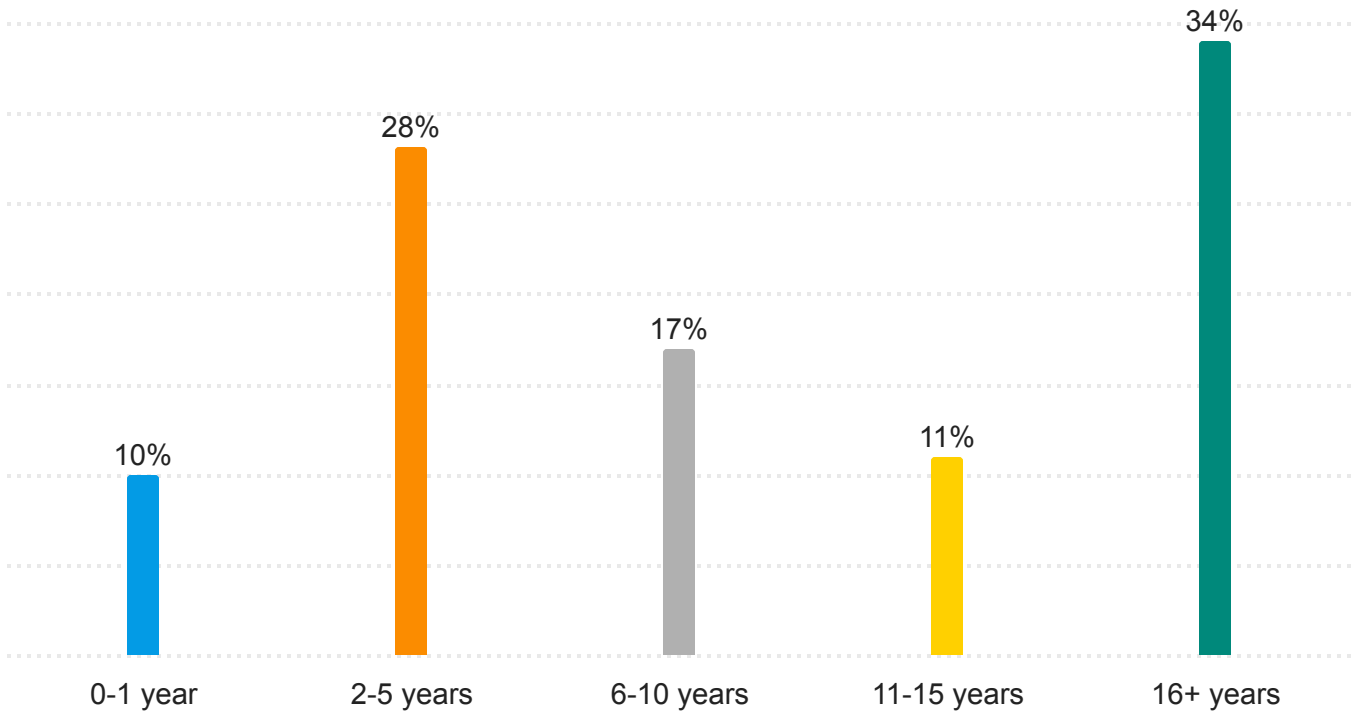
411 Responses



Answer Choice	Choice Count
Through an Agency	139
As an Independent Provider	256
Both through an Agency and as an Independent Provider	16
Total	411

Q6 - I have provided First Steps services for:

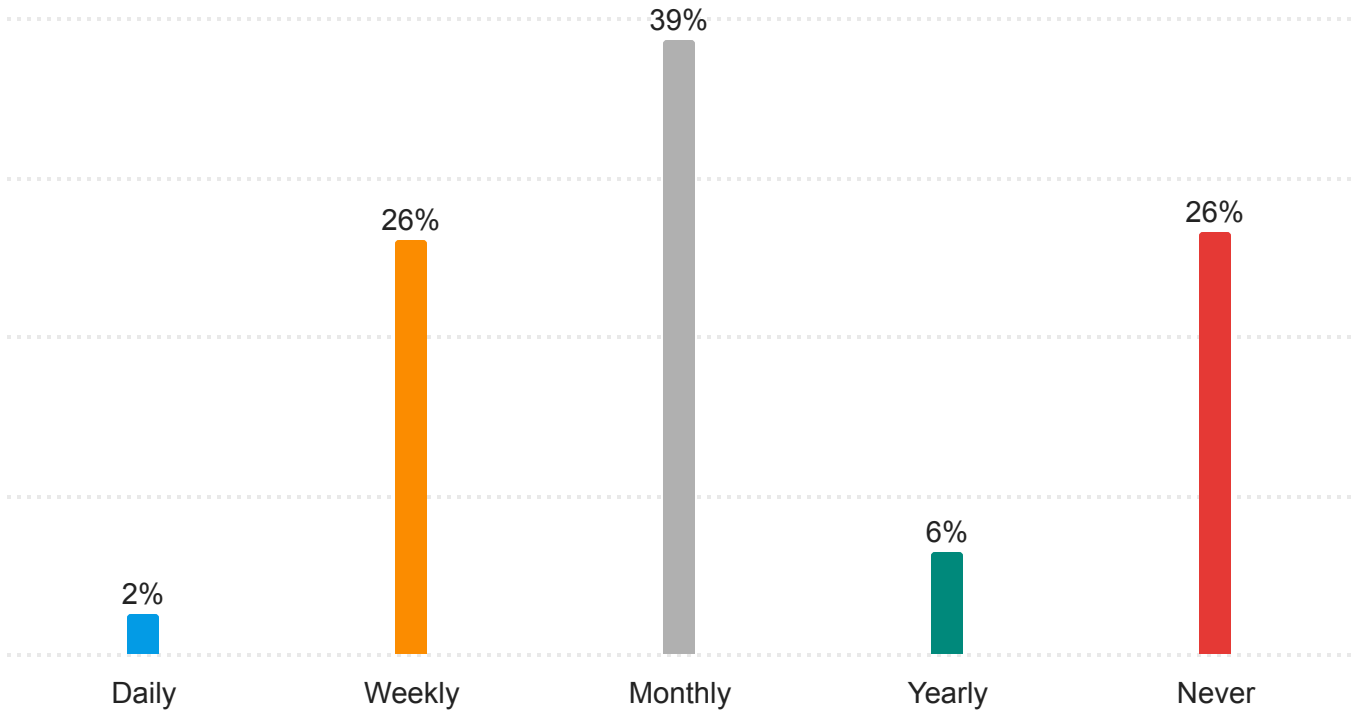
412 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
0-1 year	41
2-5 years	116
6-10 years	70
11-15 years	45
16+ years	140
Total	412

Q7 - I check the DESE Provider Communication Messages located in the WebSPOE Account Management menu:

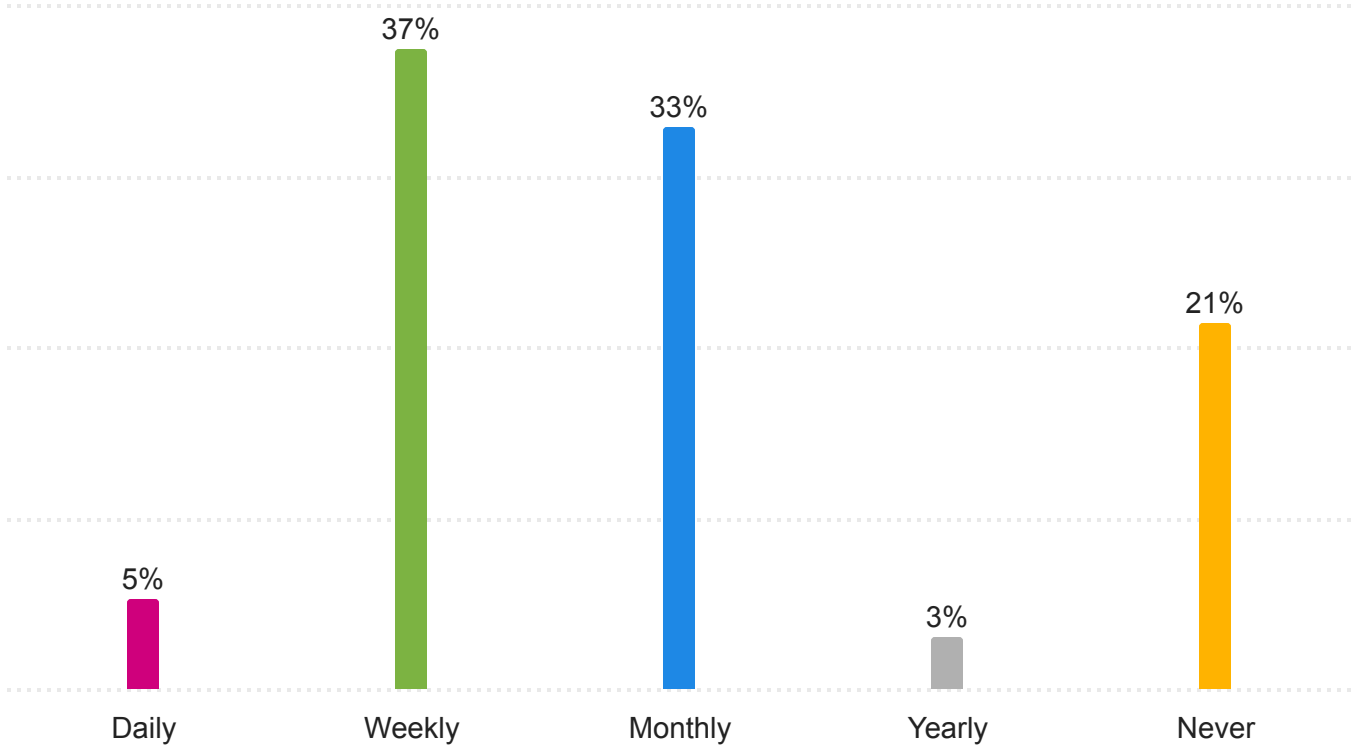
404 Responses



Answer Choice	Choice Count
Daily	10
Weekly	105
Monthly	156
Yearly	26
Never	107
Total	404

Q8 - I check the WebSPOE Message Center located on the home screen for information about authorizations and services:

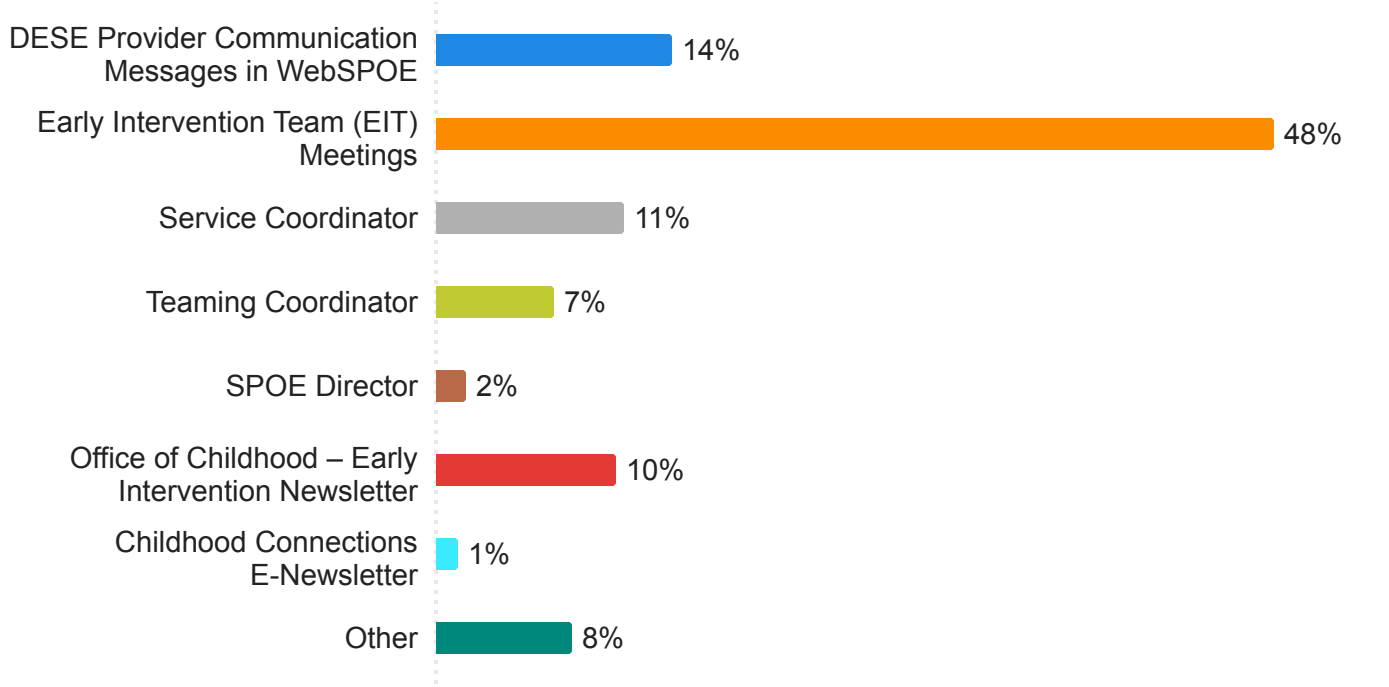
401 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
Daily	21
Weekly	150
Monthly	132
Yearly	12
Never	86
Total	401

Q9 - The number one way I stay informed about First Steps program updates is: - Selected Choice

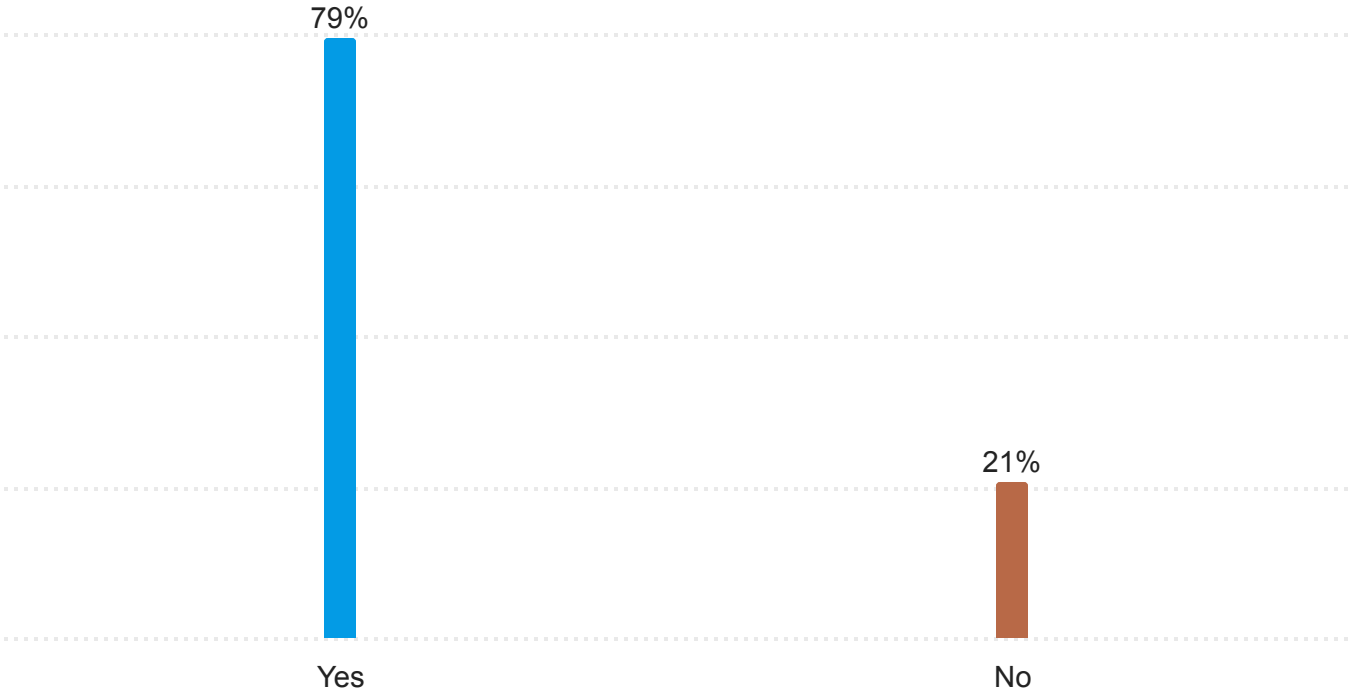
399 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
DESE Provider Communication Messages in WebSPOE	54
Early Intervention Team (EIT) Meetings	191
Service Coordinator	43
Teaming Coordinator	27
SPOE Director	7
Office of Childhood – Early Intervention Newsletter	41
Childhood Connections E-Newsletter	5
Other	31
Total	399

Q10 - I have accessed the DESE First Steps Training webpage to find trainings and/or professional development (PD) opportunities.

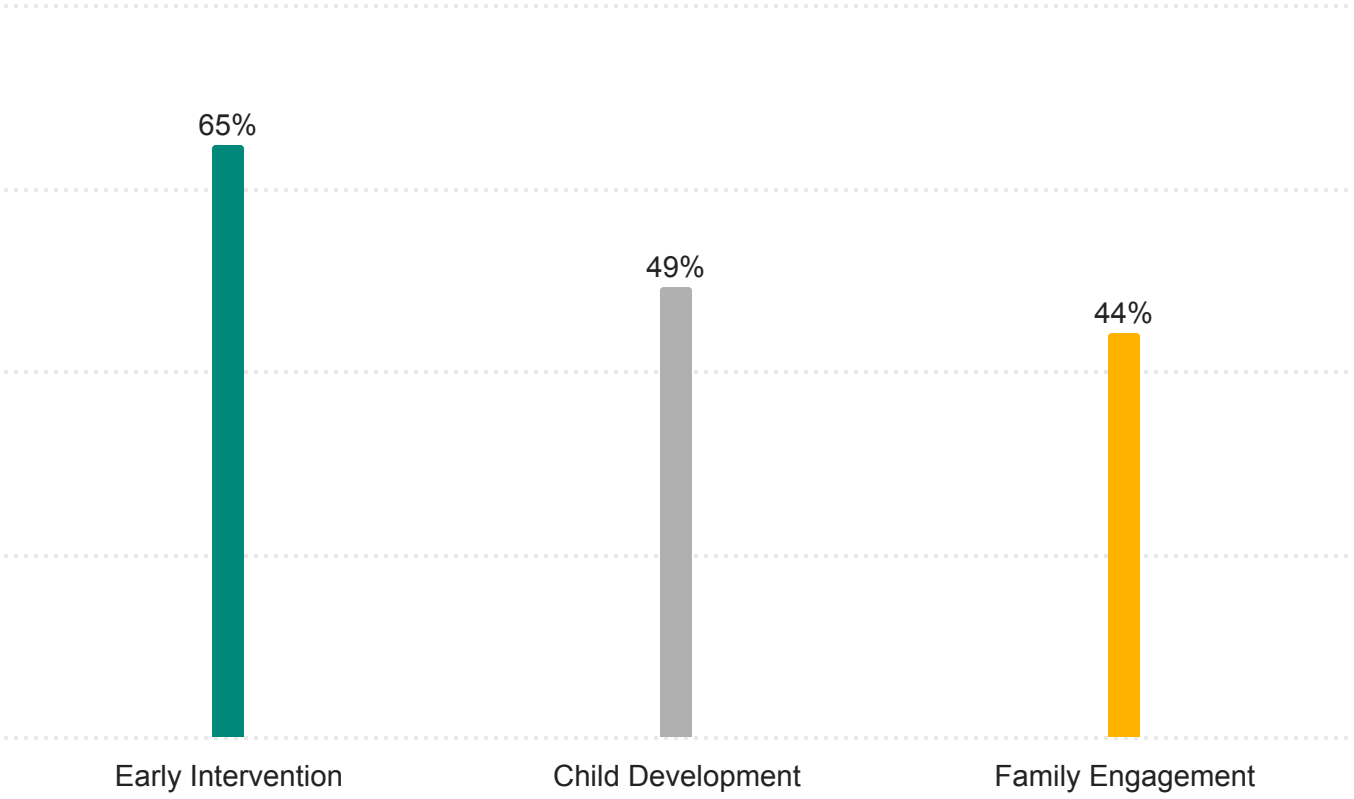
397 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
Yes	315
No	82
Total	397

Q11 - I would like more training offerings and/or resources on the following topics:

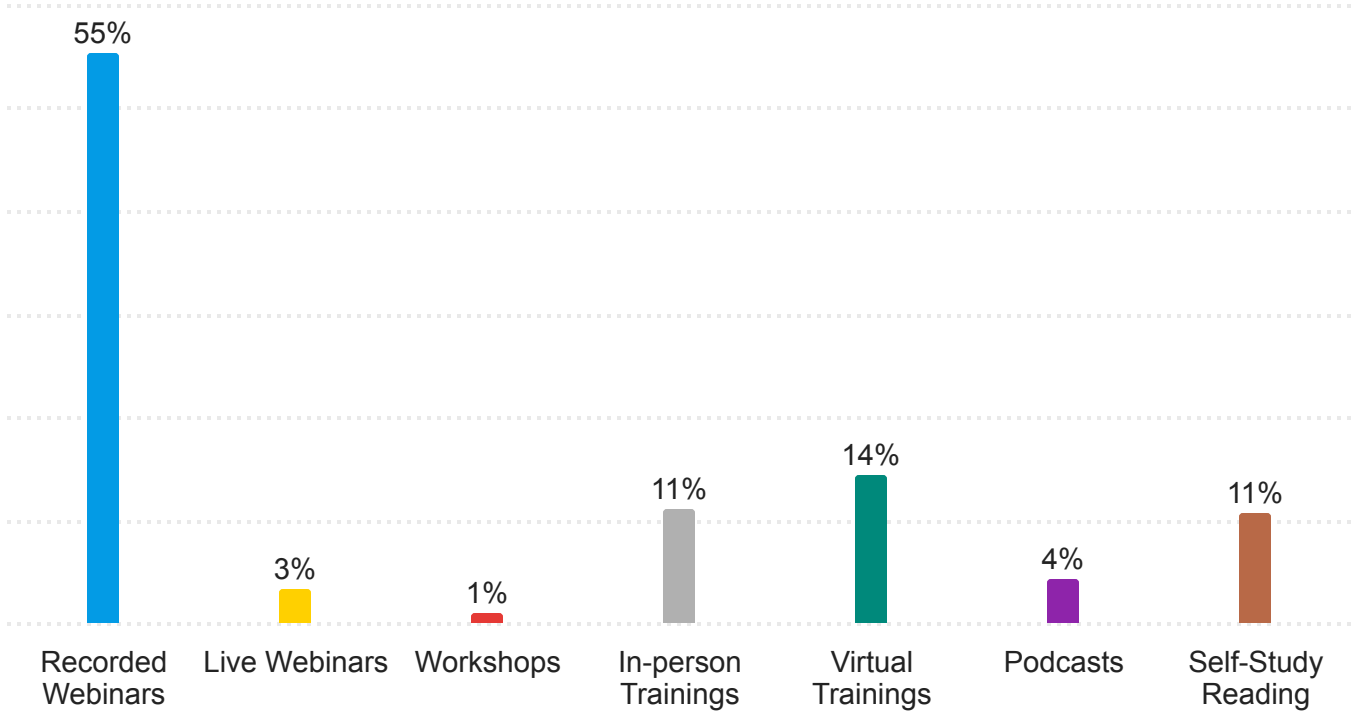
356 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
Early Intervention	230
Child Development	175
Family Engagement	157
Total	562

Q12 - I prefer to receive DESE First Steps trainings on required guidance via:

391 Responses



Field	Choice Count
Recorded Webinars	216
Live Webinars	13
Workshops	4
In-person Trainings	43
Virtual Trainings	56
Podcasts	17
Self-Study Reading	42
Total	391

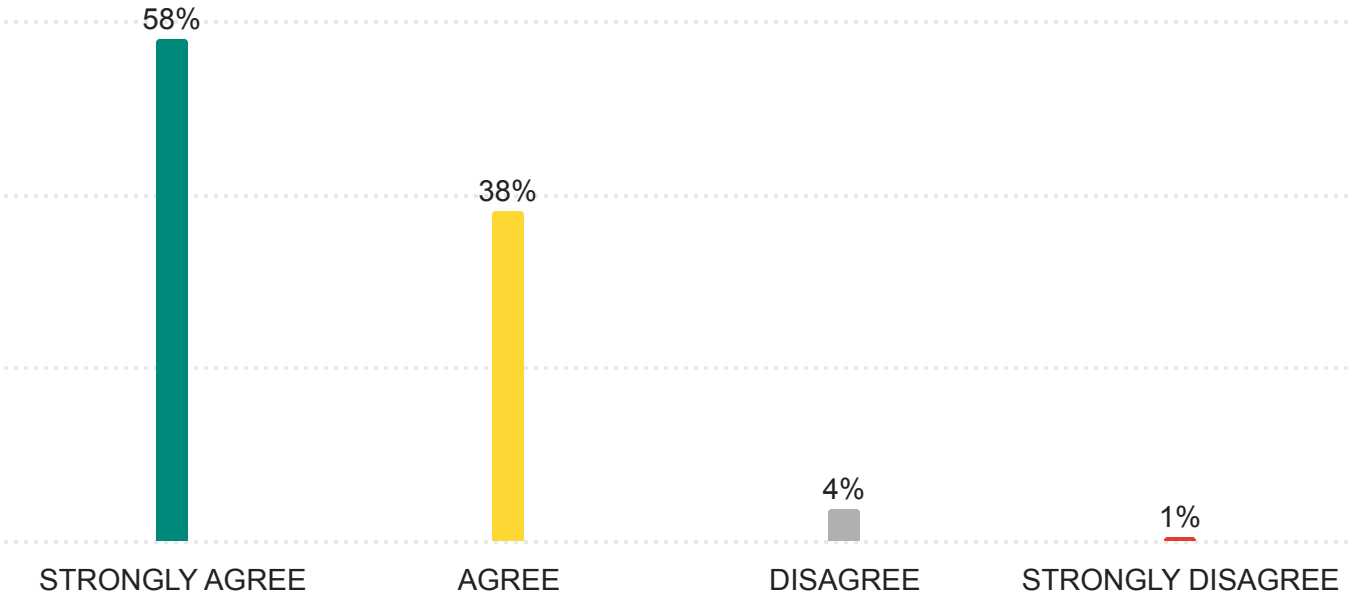
Q13 - Do you attend Family Assessment and/or IFSP meetings in any capacity? (check one) - Selected Choice

394 Responses

Field	Choice Count
No (Please explain)	16
Yes	378
Total	394

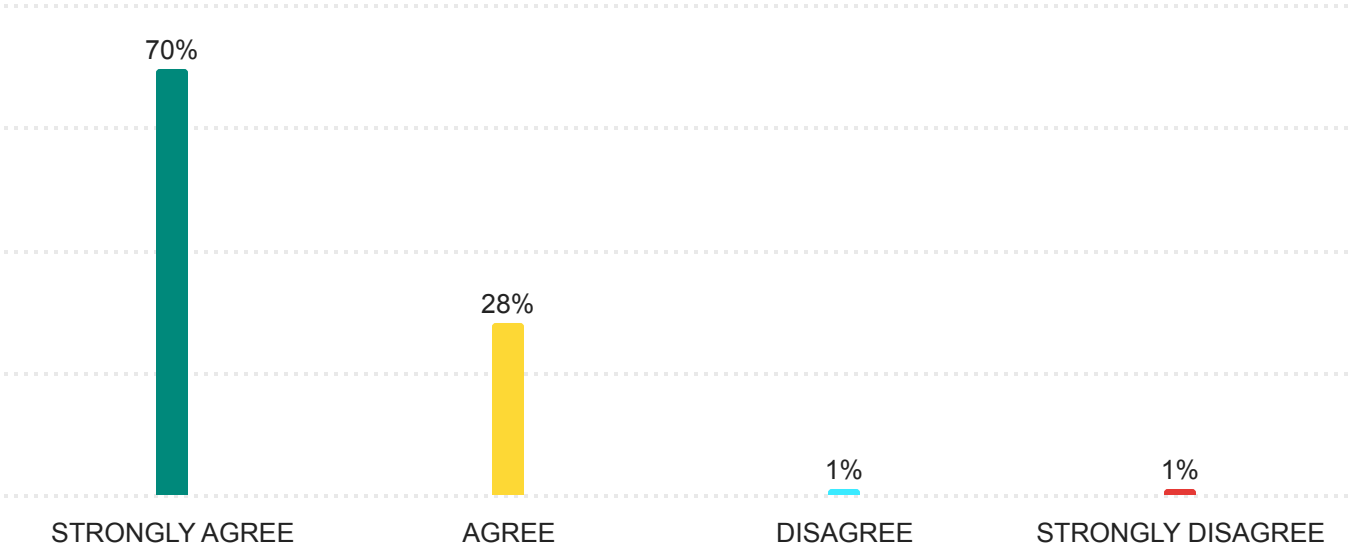
Q14a - Family Assessment Interview

363 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	210
AGREE	138
DISAGREE	13
STRONGLY DISAGREE	2
Total	363

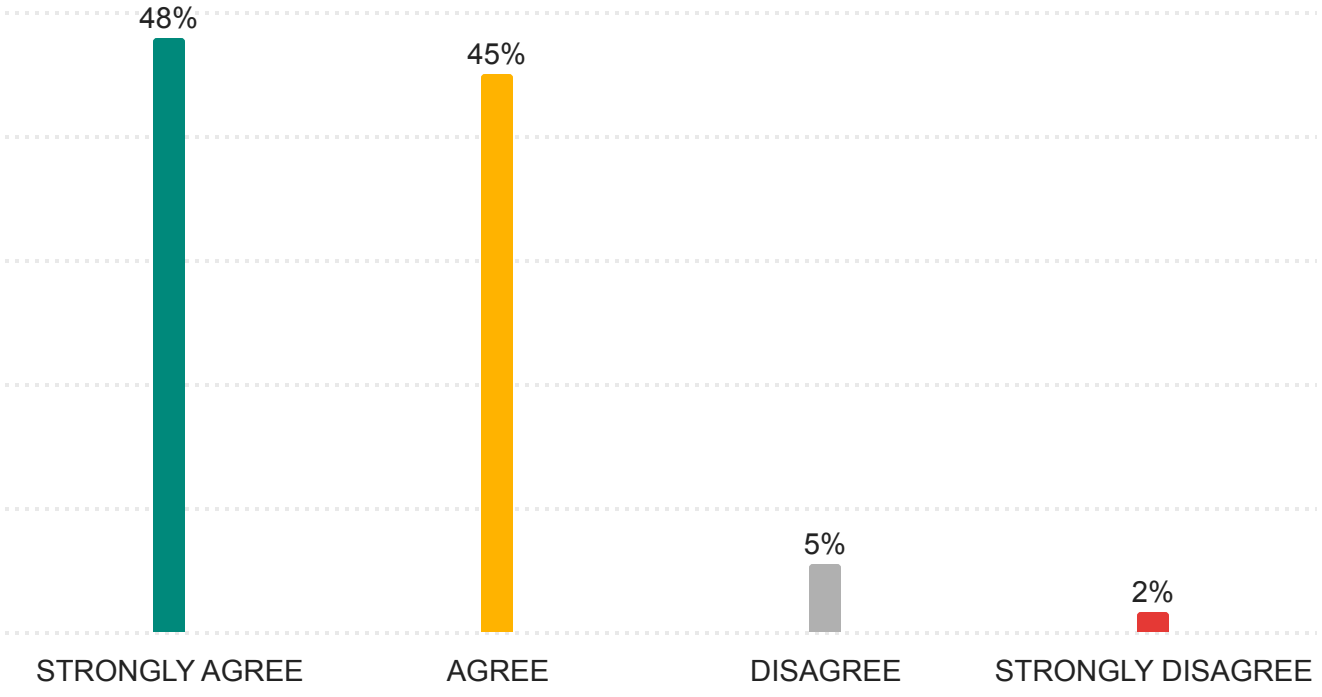
Q14b - Determining IFSP Outcomes based on family concerns and priorities



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	254
AGREE	103
DISAGREE	4
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4
Total	365

Q14c - Determining a child's current functioning in each Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) area

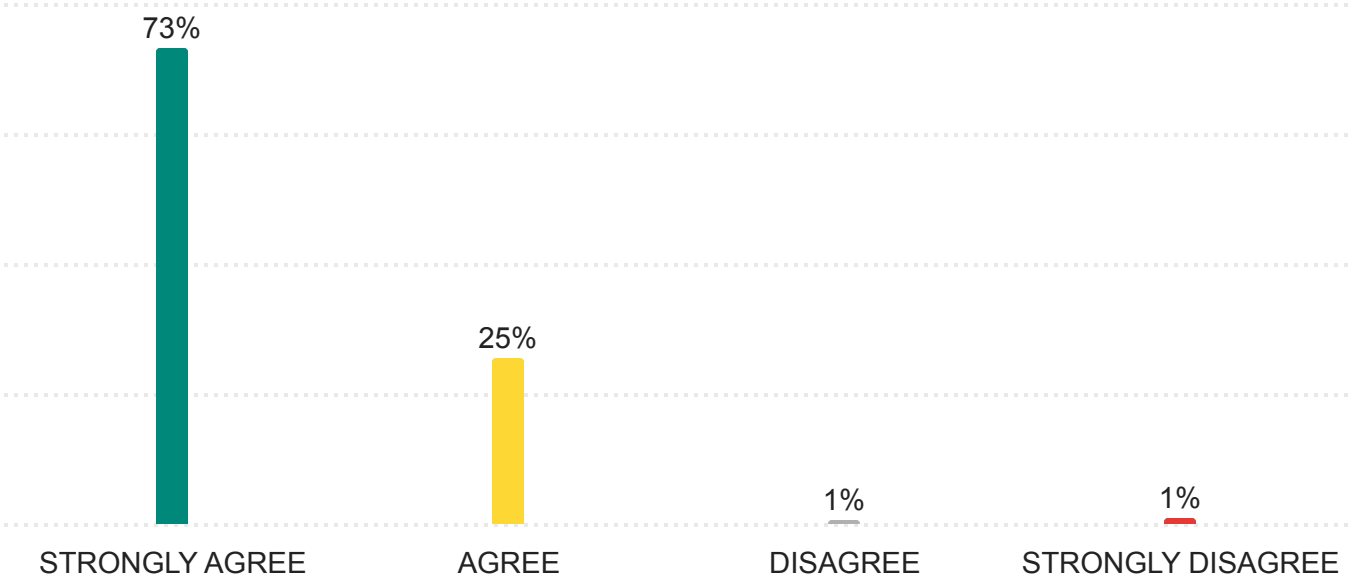
365 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	175
AGREE	164
DISAGREE	20
STRONGLY DISAGREE	6
Total	365

Q14d - Answering family's questions about developmental milestones

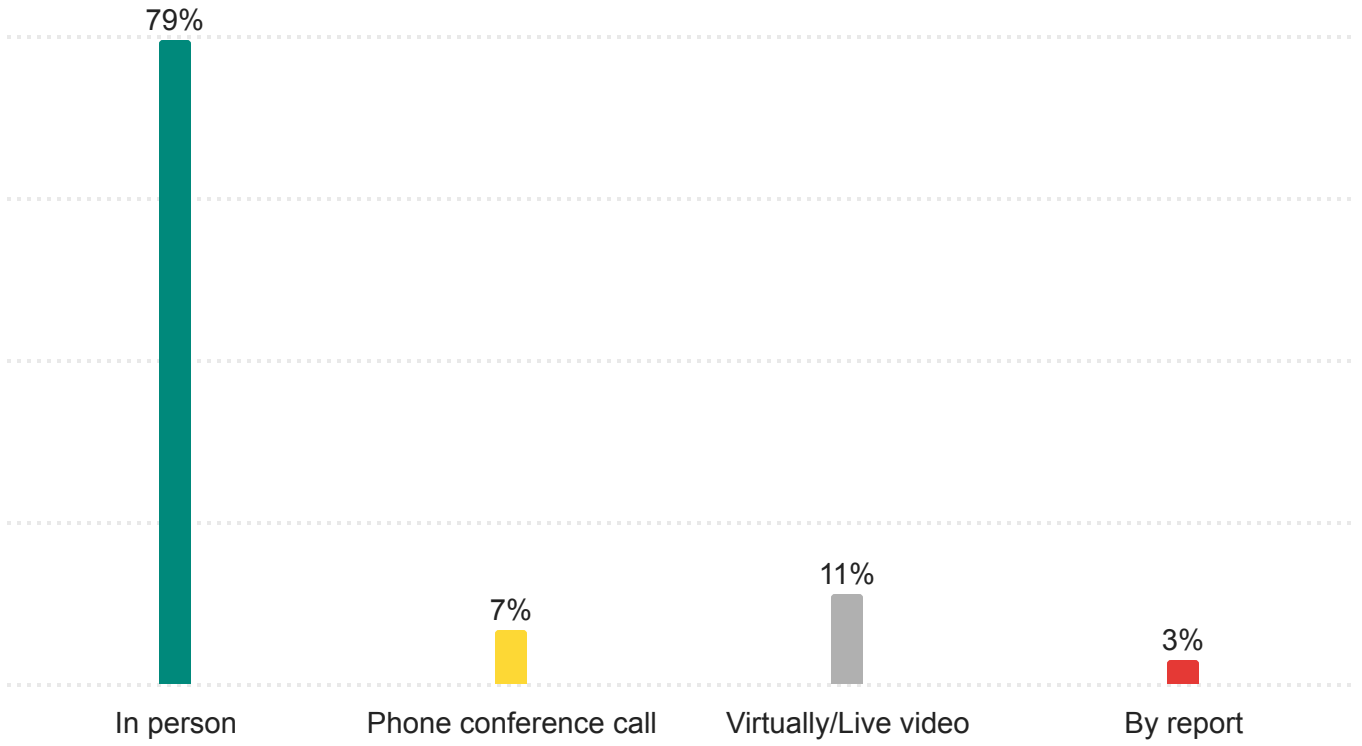
365 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	267
AGREE	93
DISAGREE	2
STRONGLY DISAGREE	3
Total	365

Q15 - The method I prefer to participate in IFSP meetings is:

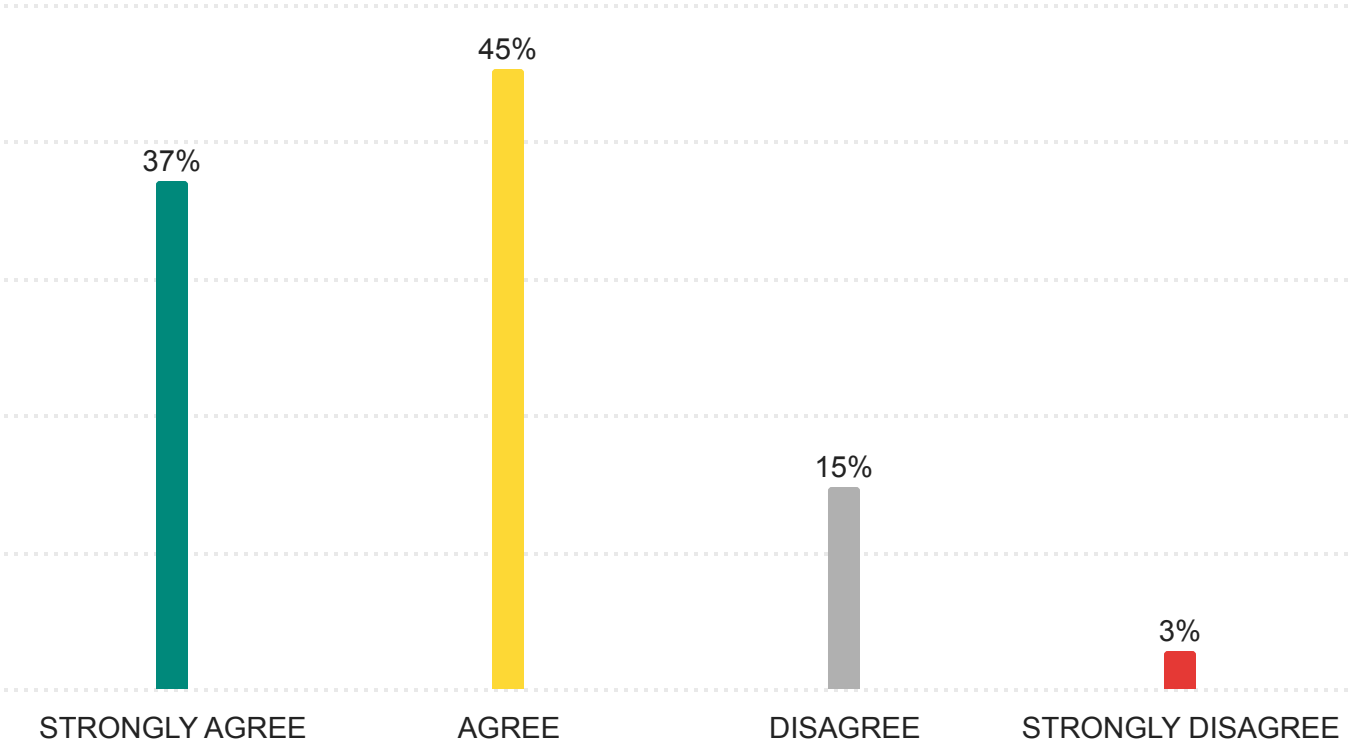
364 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
In person	289
Phone conference call	24
Virtually/Live video	40
By report	11
Total	364

Q16a - Receives enough notice on a consistent basis to attend and participate in IFSP meetings.

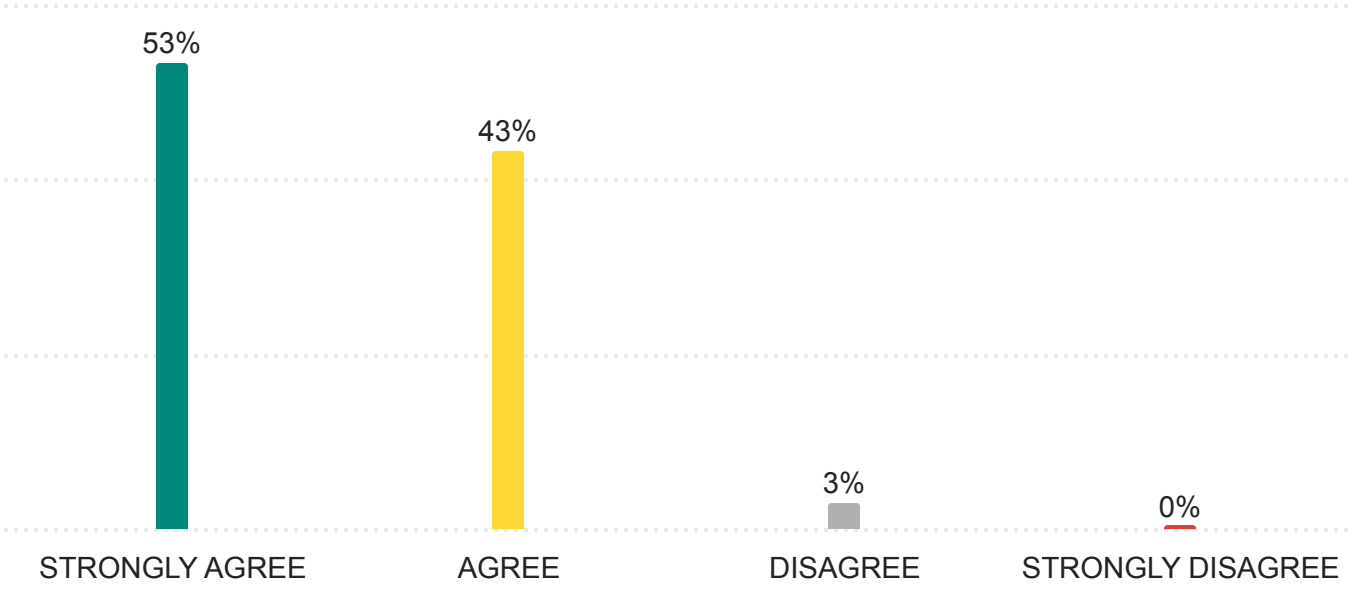
358 Responses



Answer Choice	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	133
AGREE	162
DISAGREE	53
STRONGLY DISAGREE	10
Total	358

Q16b - Uses information from the Family Assessment Interview for the creation of functional IFSP outcomes for the child and family.

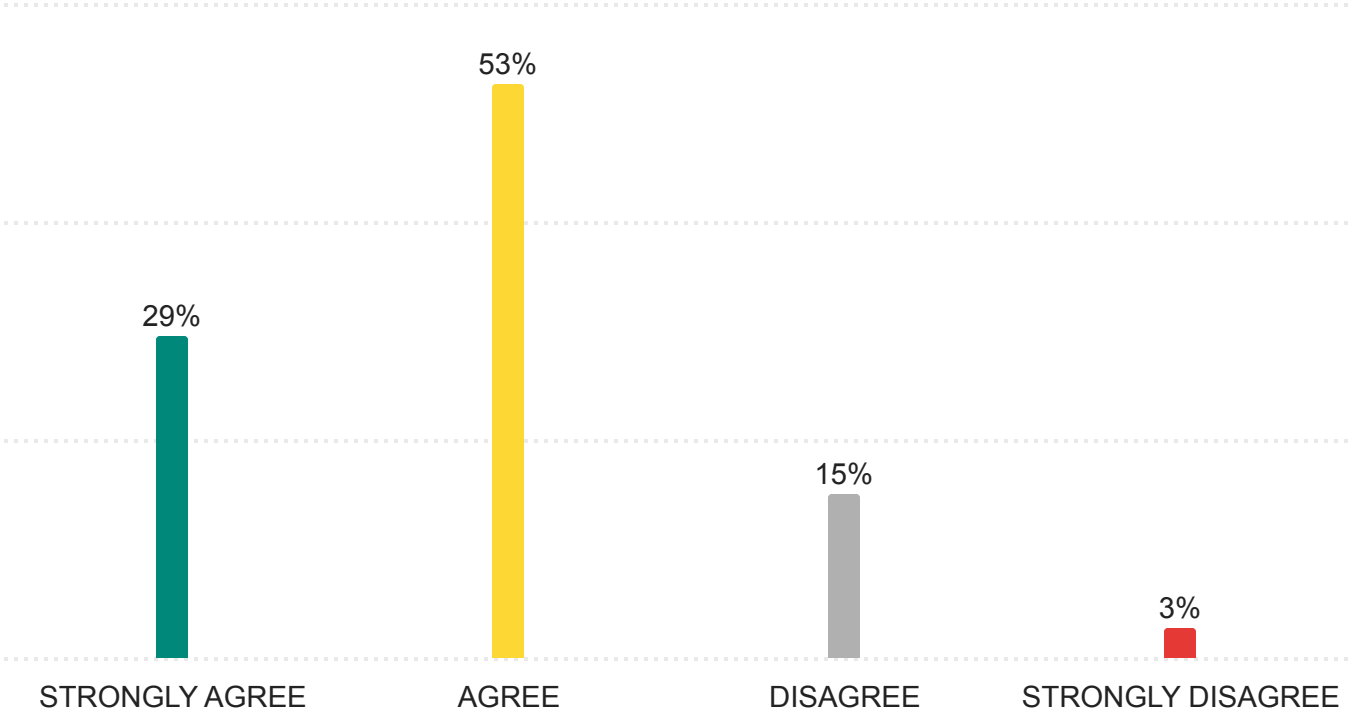
358 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	191
AGREE	155
DISAGREE	11
STRONGLY DISAGREE	1
Total	358

Q16c - Uses the Incremental Decision-Making Approach guidance to determine if the Primary Provider needs additional support to address each IFSP outcome.

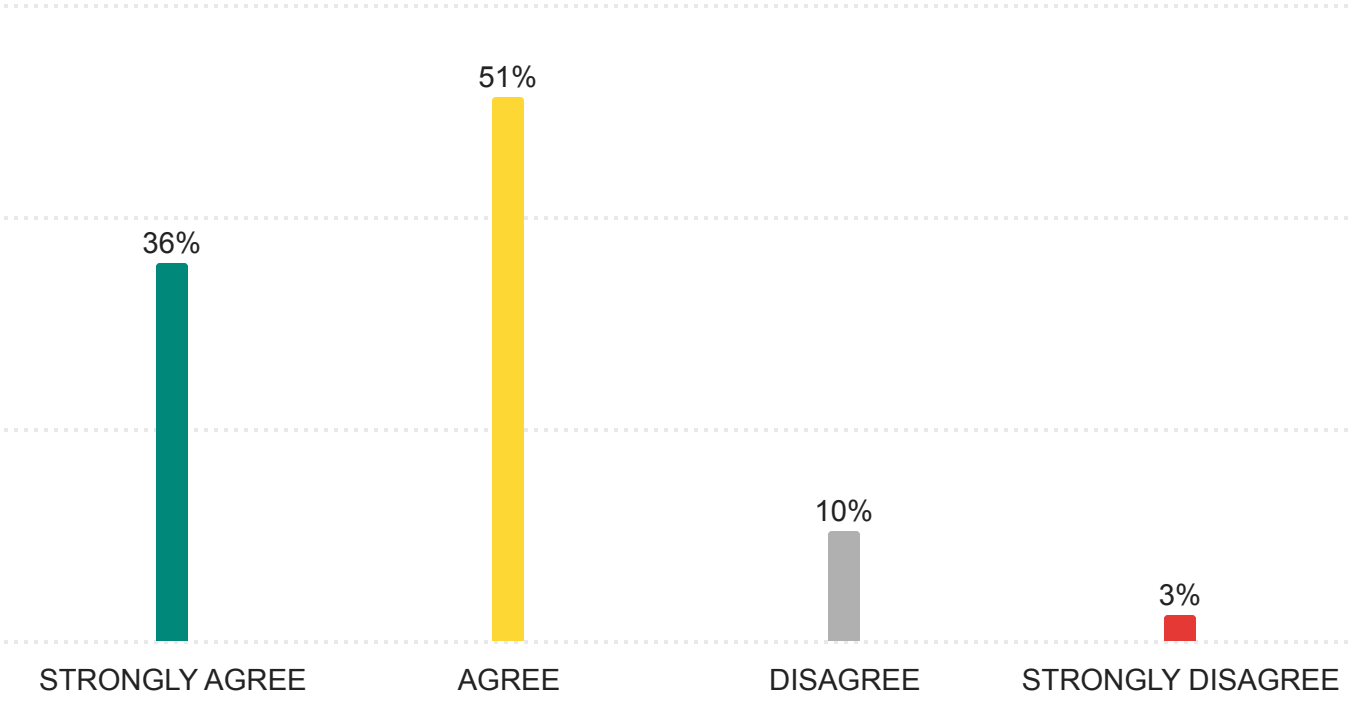
353 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	104
AGREE	186
DISAGREE	53
STRONGLY DISAGREE	10
Total	353

Q16d - Uses the ECO Decision Tree and Definitions to help determine a child's rating/level of development in each ECO area.

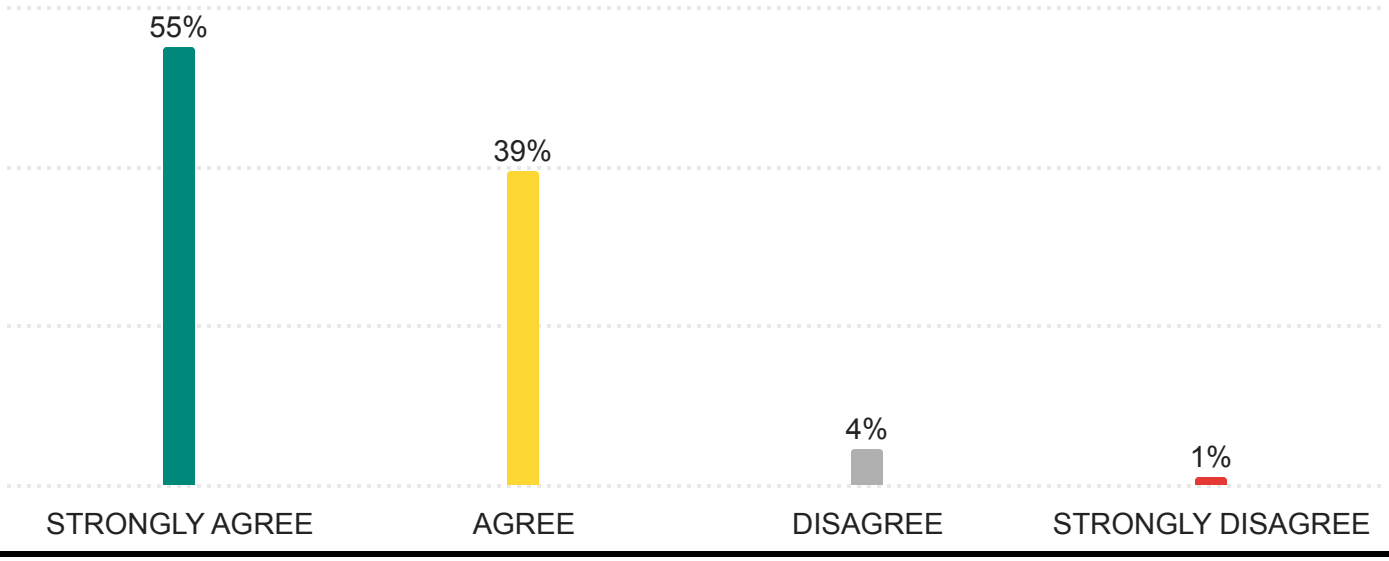
354 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	126
AGREE	182
DISAGREE	37
STRONGLY DISAGREE	9
Total	354

Q16e - Uses parent input, provider observations AND developmental evidence (evaluation, initial/ongoing assessment or developmental milestones) to help determine a child's rating/developmental level in each ECO area.

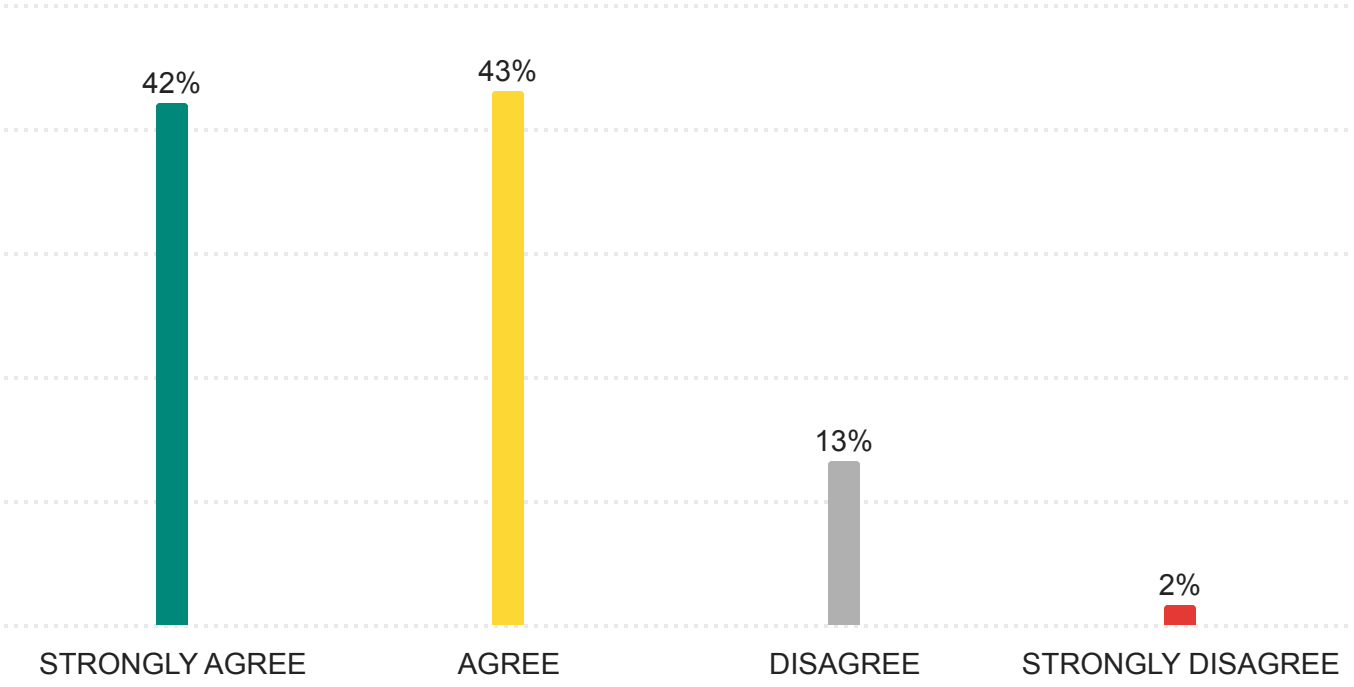
357 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	196
AGREE	141
DISAGREE	16
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4
Total	357

Q16f - Determines a child's rating/developmental level in every ECO area at each in-person IFSP meeting.

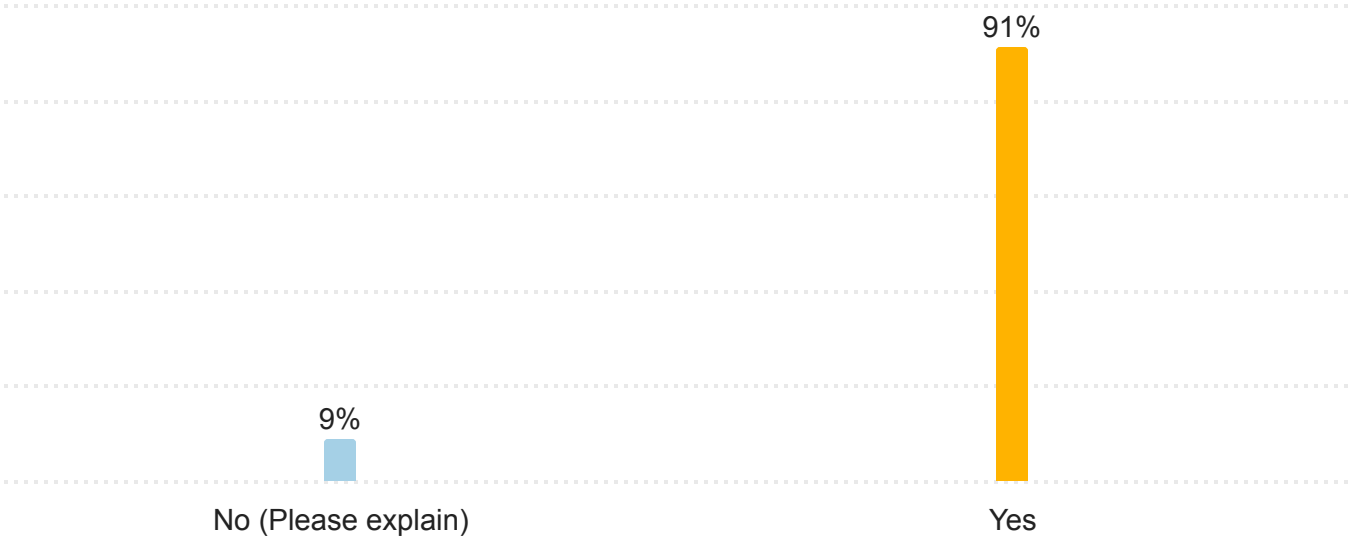
357 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	150
AGREE	154
DISAGREE	47
STRONGLY DISAGREE	6
Total	357

Q17 - Do you attend Early Intervention Team meetings in any capacity? - Selected Choice

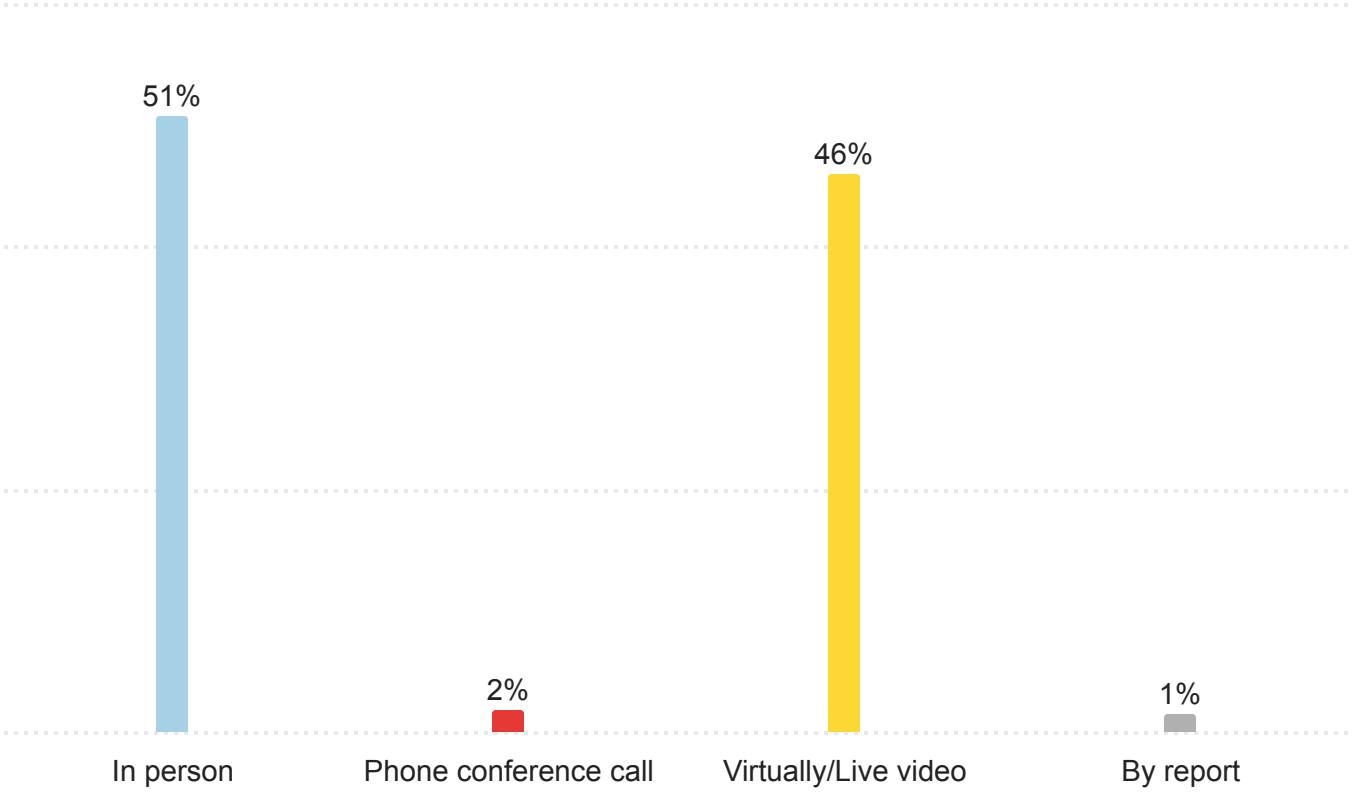
375 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
No (Please explain)	33
Yes	342
Total	375

Q18 - The method most often offered to participate in EIT meetings is:

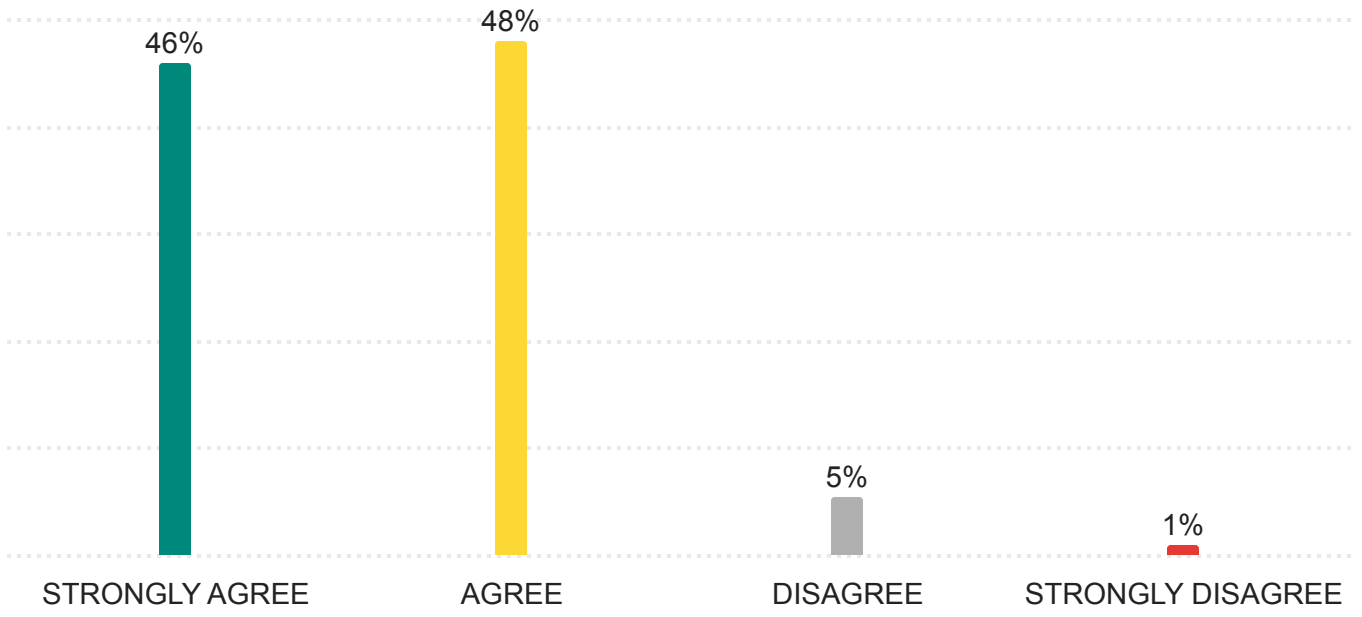
341 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
In person	173
Phone conference call	6
Virtually/Live video	157
By report	5
Total	341

Q19a - There is collaboration on coaching strategies.

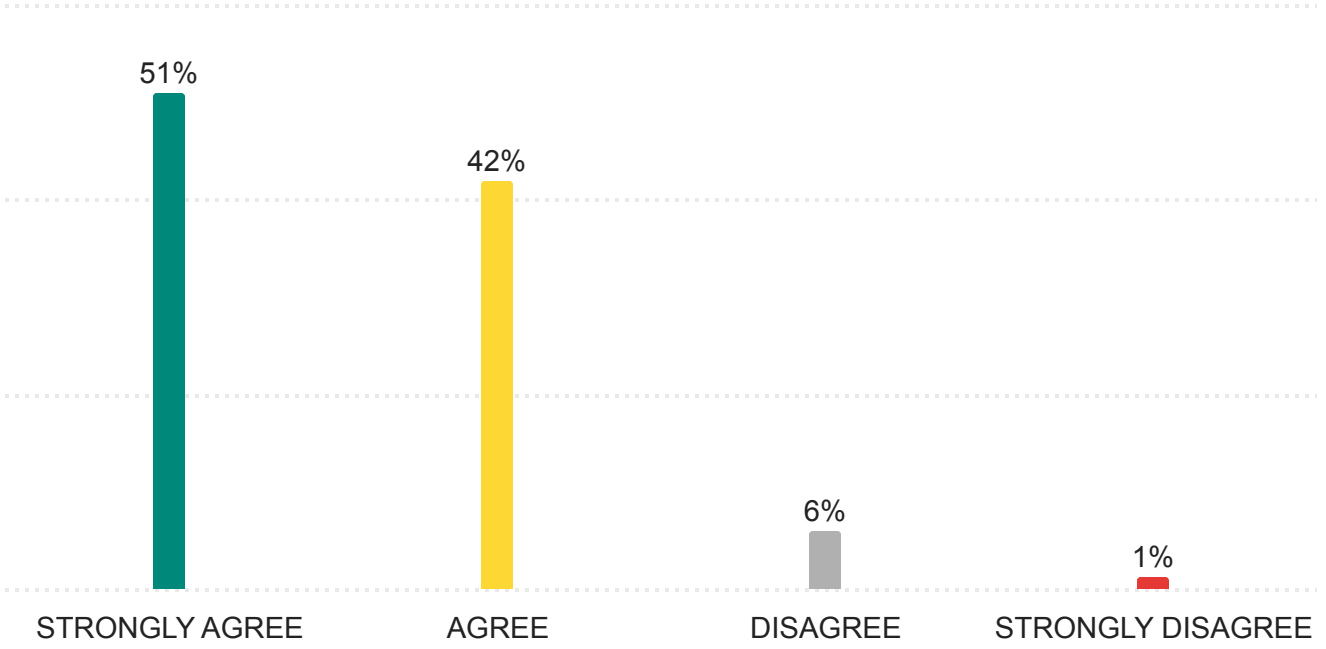
338 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	155
AGREE	162
DISAGREE	18
STRONGLY DISAGREE	3
Total	338

Q19b - I am comfortable contributing strategies to the team.

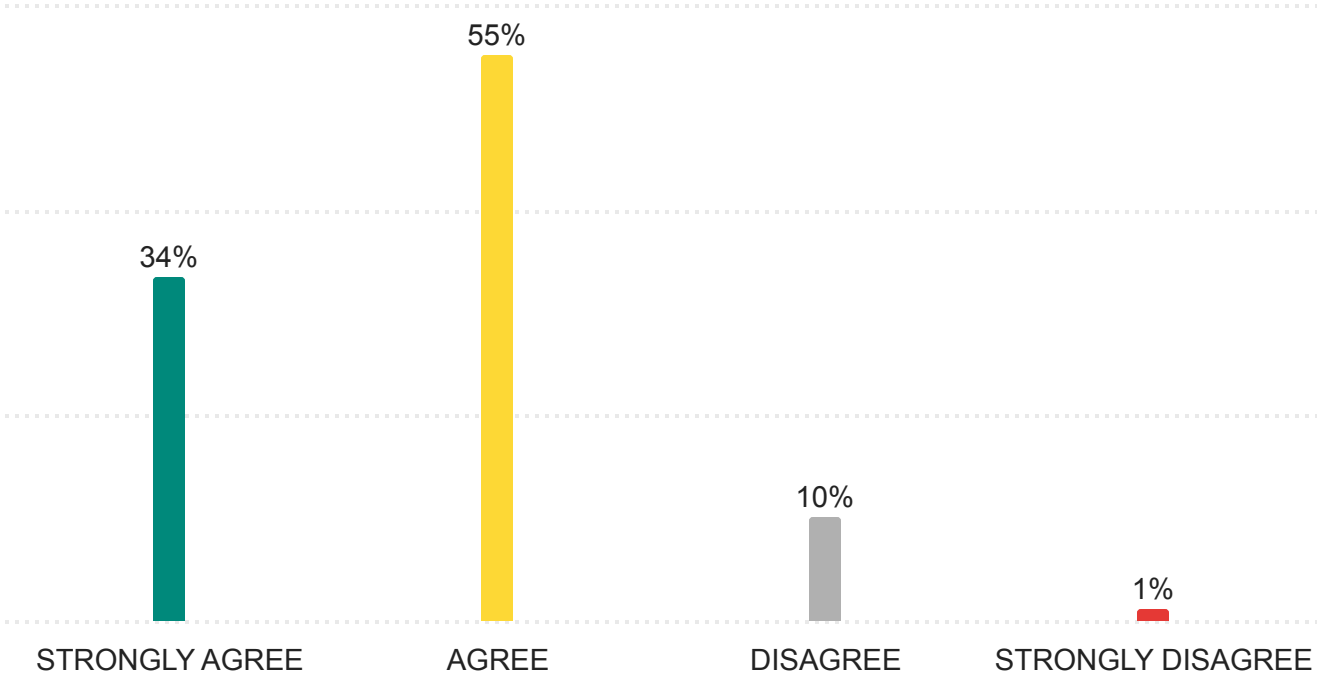
337 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	172
AGREE	141
DISAGREE	20
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4
Total	337

Q19c - ECO PD time is implemented

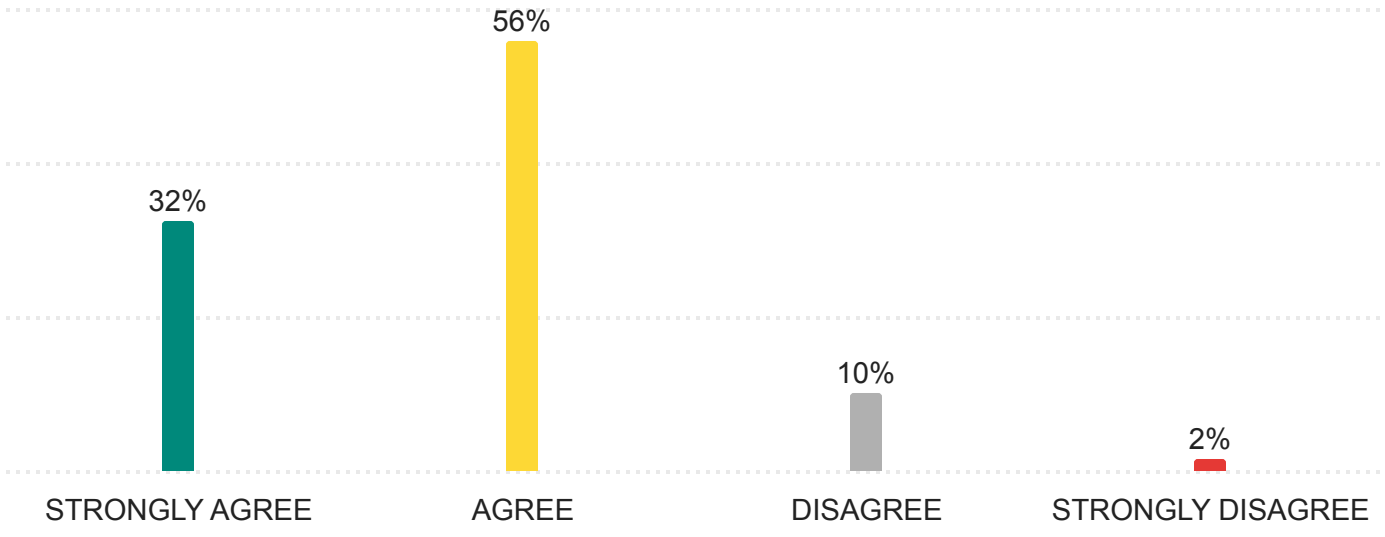
334 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	112
AGREE	184
DISAGREE	34
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4
Total	334

Q19d - ECO PD time includes topics directly related to the three ECO areas (positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and using appropriate behaviors to meet needs).

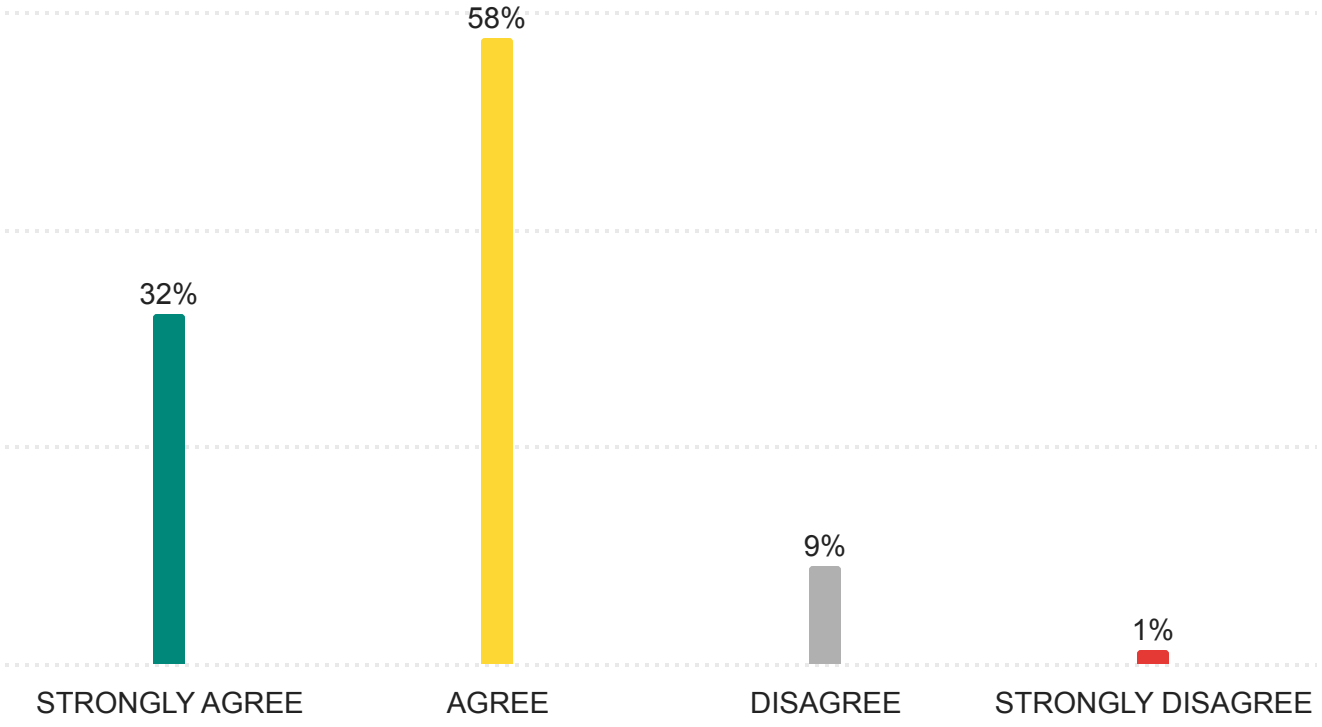
333 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	108
AGREE	186
DISAGREE	34
STRONGLY DISAGREE	5
Total	333

Q19e - ECO PD time includes or reviews resources from the First Steps online training modules.

332 Responses



Answer Choices	Choice Count
STRONGLY AGREE	107
AGREE	191
DISAGREE	30
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4
Total	332